



I claim:

1. A broadcasting and fee collection method combining the steps of:

providing a computer program ("streaming software") that enables a user ("streamer") to transmit a stream of audio or video material ("content") that is provided to the streamer in encrypted form ("submission form"),

providing a computer program ("playback software") that allows a user ("listener") to play said stream of content, and further allows said listener to save a copy of a portion of said content ("download") upon payment, or arrangement for payment, of a fee ("download fee") therefor,

directing download fees to parties to whom said download fees are due,

providing a computer program ("submission software") that enables an owner ("originator") of content to encrypt said content into said submission form.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said streaming software transmits said stream of content in encrypted form ("streaming form"), which streaming form may be distinct from said submission form.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said playback software accumulates said stream of content transmitted by said streaming software in a buffer and enables said listener to save said download from said buffer.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said buffer accumulates said transmitted stream of content in streaming form and enables said listener to save said download in unencrypted form.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said playback software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential listeners.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said streaming software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential streamers.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said submission software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential originators.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said submission software enables a said originator to propose a proportion of download fees for said content to be paid to said originator, and said proposed proportion of download fees are directed to said originator.

9. The method of claim 1, further providing a computer program ("negotiation software") that enables a said originator and a said streamer to negotiate the portions of download fees respectively due said originator and said streamer.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said streaming software is disabled from transmitting said content to listeners without an enabling signal from said originator.

11. The method of claim 1, further providing a computer program ("multicasting software") that accumulates in a buffer the said stream of content transmitted by said streaming software, and further transmits said stream of content to a plurality of devices ("multicast receivers").

12. The method of claim 11, wherein a said multicast receiver comprises a device that executes said playback software, which playback software in turn plays said stream of content.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein a said multicast receiver comprises a device that executes said multicasting software, which multicasting software further transmits said stream of content to a further said multicast receiver.